

A RESOLUTION

02-R-0088

**BY COUNCILMEMBER CLAIR MULLER
AS SUBSTITUTED BY COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT/HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE
BUCKHEAD ROTARY CLUB HAS BEEN AND SHALL
CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN AND CLEAN THE
APPARENTLY ABANDONED HISTORICALLY
SIGNIFICANT HARMONY GROVE CEMETERY
LOCATED AT 214 WEST PACES FERRY ROAD, NW; TO
PROVIDE THAT THE CITY'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND
PARTICIPATION WITH RESPECT TO THIS EFFORT
SHALL BE AT NO COST TO THE CITY AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the Harmony Grove Cemetery is located at 214 West Paces Ferry Road
and has a total of 41 marked burial sites and several unmarked sites; and

WHEREAS, according to Atlanta Historian Franklin Garrett, the cemetery dates back
to March 1872, when James Smith was buried there; and

WHEREAS, the most prominent plot is the Sims family's—John Sims was buried in
the Harmony Grove Cemetery in January 1919 (his son, Walter Sims, was mayor of Atlanta
in the 1920s); and

WHEREAS, the Harmony Grove Baptist Church was abandoned in 1919 when the
dwindling congregation moved to a new location and the structure was demolished; and

WHEREAS, according to the daughter of former Mayor Walter Sims, her father set
up a trust with the then C & S Bank and also got a ruling from the Georgia Supreme Court
that Harmony Grove Cemetery must be maintained as a cemetery in perpetuity; and

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WHEREAS, over the years, Harmony Grove Cemetery has not been properly protected nor preserved, nor is there clear title or ownership of the cemetery property so as to enforce proper maintenance of that land.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA that the City acknowledges that The Buckhead Rotary Club has been and shall continue to maintain, clean and cut the grass, and prune the bushes and trees located in the apparently abandoned and historically significant Harmony Grove Cemetery on a volunteer basis and shall provide landscaping and other such services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City's acknowledgment and participation with respect to this effort shall be at no cost to the City.